

Protecting ewes and this spring's lambs starts now

Make sure your flock is ready for proper pre-lamb vaccination.



Hoggets/2 tooth

The use of 5-in-1 vaccine MULTINE® at weaning and 4-6 weeks later ensures lambs are protected from the most common

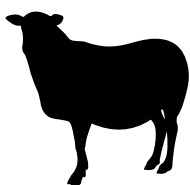
clostridial diseases over the periods of high risk for lambs. If replacement hoggets are then mated, they should be given a booster vaccination pre-lamb, to ensure they are protected through lambing, and to provide protection to their suckling lambs via colostrum.

Replacement ewes can be forgotten after their first lamb shot and often only receive 1 shot prior to pre-lamb vaccination; however this may not provide the best protection for suckling lambs. For these ewes it is recommended to give a clostridial shot prior to tupping – this can be done at the same time as other pre-mating vaccinations (TOXOVAX® and CAMPYVAX4®) – and then the pre-lamb shot as usual. Use MULTINE or NILVAX®, NILVAX¹ stimulates an enhanced immune response to the 5-in-1 component and the levamisole component will also provide a short-acting drench.



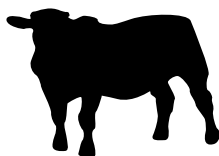
Bought in ewes

Remember that the vaccination history of bought-in stock may not be known. Prior to joining is a great opportunity to give these animals a MULTINE or NILVAX sensitiser – they can then fit in with the main flock booster shot pre-lamb.



Rams

It is recommended to give rams an annual 5-in-1 clostridial booster, with MULTINE or NILVAX, as these are valuable animals that are well worth protecting. Fighting that may occur around mating leaves rams susceptible to clostridial wound infection, so as well as being convenient timing, it makes sense to vaccinate pre-tupping.

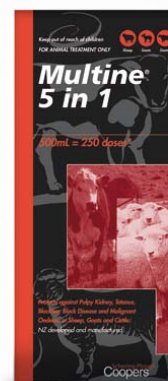
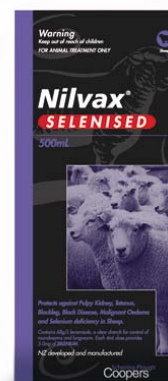


Beef Cattle

If you are buying MULTINE for the sheep flock then consider beef cattle too.

Ensure young beef stock are vaccinated against clostridial diseases. Blackleg and Sudden Death Syndrome are most often seen in young, fast growing cattle. Both diseases progress rapidly,

so that often the first sign is dead stock. An initial course of two vaccinations 4-6 weeks apart will provide protection – MULTINE 5-in-1 protects against New Zealand's five most common clostridial diseases, including Blackleg. COVEXIN 10® gives broad protection against 10 clostridial diseases, including the two causes of Sudden Death Syndrome. Discuss which vaccine might be right for your stock with your veterinarian or animal health advisor.



1. Do not use NILVAX in sheep under 20kg. Observe caution when calculating dose: Overestimating live weights may result in levamisole overdose and toxicity.



Sheep performance vaccines help your ewe flock achieve its full potential

Part of ensuring ewes are ready for mating is to make sure they are protected from the 2 most common causes of abortion and lamb loss. The first of these is Toxoplasma, an intracellular parasite which attacks the placenta and fetus and causes an increased number of dry ewes as well as abortion storms. The use of TOXOVAX at least 4 weeks before mating is a one shot for life preventative. This vaccine is made to order so must be ordered through your veterinarian at least 4 weeks before you need to use it, or 8 weeks before mating. If you are using a teaser ram, the recommendation is to have the vaccine given 4 weeks before this teaser is used.

The other disease is Campylobacter, and once again this can cause increased dry rates, abortion storms and the birth of weak and non-viable lambs. CAMPYVAX4 vaccination to maiden ewes requires 2 injections 4-8 weeks apart, and in an ideal situation both of these would be completed before the ram goes in. An annual booster is recommended in mature aged breeding ewes as the ewes' immunity decreases between mating seasons.

Toxoplasmosis Key Points

- Toxoplasmosis can cause an increased number of dry ewes, and abortion storms.
- One shot of TOXOVAX protects ewes for life.
- Vaccinate 4 weeks before the ram (or teaser) goes in.

Campylobacter Key Points

- Campylobacter can cause an increased number of dry ewes, and abortion storms and the birth of weak and non-viable lambs.
- Give two shots 4-8 weeks apart to maiden ewes.
- Give an annual booster to mature aged ewes.
- Get vaccinations done before the ram goes in.

The cold lousy months are just around the corner – do you have an effective lice management plan?

Timing and planning are important for lice control - often once lice are causing noticeable signs, there is already a big problem present in the flock that may have been developing for months. Therefore, to ensure lice never become a problem, a lice control plan must be well thought out to coincide with other events on-farm.



Lice reproduce slowly, and spread from sheep to sheep often takes many months. An unnoticed lice infestation can build over the colder months, resulting in a big problem in long-wool sheep, fleece damage and costly emergency treatments. The key message with lice treatments is timing - this is especially important where once-yearly shearing is planned.

Tips for effective lice control:

- To get the best result from your pour-on, such as MAGNUM®, VANQUISH® or WIPE-OUT®, treatment off-shears is always recommended. This is especially important for once-yearly shearing
- If using saturation dips, such as ZENITH® Concentrate, full saturation to skin level over the entire animal is needed to ensure lice control. Automatic jetting races are prone to missing areas – such as under the neck – and can result in incomplete control
- Check for lice early before numbers build. Vet advice may be needed to ensure sheep are checked properly, as small infestations can be difficult to detect
- Ensure all bought-in stock are treated for lice (or at least thoroughly checked)
- Ensure boundary fences are secure, and all sheep on farm are treated – one mis-mustered lousy sheep can infest a whole flock

If planning on pre-lamb shearing, this is the perfect opportunity to apply a COOPERS lice pour-on. If shearing was done mid-summer, lice need to be considered and treatments applied now if required.

Consulting your vet, animal health advisor or COOPERS Territory Manager is recommended to develop the right lice control programme for a particular operation.

Autumn may bring a new wave of flystrike

We are now well into the second half of the 'fly season' but this is not the time to let your guard down. Often flystrike problems increase again approaching autumn.

Farmers who have had a good run so far likely have a good flystrike management plan in place, and are aware that timing and application technique are critical factors in preventing flystrike.

Flystrike prevention products must be applied just prior to periods of high risk. This can sometimes be difficult to gauge, as climatic conditions are very important. However, other risk factors and monitoring are useful here:

- Crops, scrubby areas (especially Manuka), sheltered gullies or paddocks near water are high risk.
- Scouring will attract flies – ensure lambs are regularly drenched, and be wary of changes in diet or lush pasture.
- Keep sheep clean – crutching/dagging where necessary and treat wounds, footrot and skin/wool diseases.
- Dispose of dead animals as soon as possible – carcasses can support thousands of fly larvae. Clean up rotting hay, stock feed, compost and rubbish where larvae can develop.



Key treatment times include:

- Prior to the blowfly population influx in spring – timing will be weather dependent.
- Again later in the season when duration of protection from spring treatment is waning, and especially where a second fly population growth occurs late summer. As a general rule, under high fly challenge the length of protection provided by chemicals will decrease.
- Prior to periods of high-risk – for example if weather conditions are favourable for fly, treat prior to grazing crops or scrubby gullies.

- Talk to your neighbours – fly challenge occurs locally – they normally range around 2-3km but can fly 10km upwind.
- Consider setting monitor traps to gauge an increase in flies on your farm.
- Take note of weather conditions and monitor sheep closely if conditions are favourable to flies – a few mild days following rain is all it can take to produce an influx of flies.
- Remember that dry windy conditions are safest – when flies are prevalent, flocks will be safer on high, open, windy paddocks.



MAGNUM is the ideal product to use for lice control at this time of the year because it is rainfast and is guaranteed to keep your flock lice free when you follow the COOPERS 10 point lice management plan. Visit www.coopersonline.co.nz and click on MAGNUM for more information.

Make sure your rams are fit for the job

The ram breeding soundness exam (BSE) is a key part of any lamb production operation. The BSE ensures rams are free from disease or defects which could impair successful mating. Arrange ram BSEs with your vet to be done at least 6-8 weeks prior to the planned start of mating – this gives time to sort out any problems or purchase new rams if required.

As part of a thorough BSE the general health of the animals must be evaluated, as ill health, lameness, and poor condition can all affect ram performance. In addition, rams' scrotums should be palpated to detect lumps and bumps, and any irregularities in size or tone.

This is also an ideal time to vaccinate rams against clostridial diseases, and decide if drenching is necessary. Rams fighting during tupping leaves wounds susceptible to clostridial infection, so as well as being convenient timing, it makes sense to vaccinate pre-tupping. Drenching may help ensure rams are in good condition by tupping – this decision should be made on body condition scores, feed available, and ideally egg counts. For bought-in rams, remember to quarantine drench to prevent the introduction of resistant worms onto your farm. A quality triple combination drench such as ALLIANCE® is excellent for use as a quarantine drench.



Consider a pre-tup drench for ewes

Having ewes in good condition prior to mating is essential – poor body condition can have a major impact on conception rates.

When used strategically, pre-mating drenching of ewes helps to prepare ewes for mating. However, drenching of every ewe is no longer the normal recommendation. Resistance in worms means the unrestrained use of drenches is not sustainable. Striving to protect drenches is just as important as the potential production advantages of drenching. Not drenching a proportion of animals helps to slow the development of drench resistance,

by maintaining a 'refugia' or susceptible worm population. Robust ewes are a good option for a refugia population as adult stock generally are less affected by worms than young stock.

It is recommended to drench ewes at higher risk of significant parasite burdens, such as those with low body condition or Faecal Egg Counts (FECs), or where low pasture covers or high pasture contamination are predicted.

There is no 'recipe' for all farms, and each property needs to use an assessment of ewe FECs, pasture levels and ewe condition to assess whether drenching is required.



To help ensure rams and ewes perform at tupping use ALLIANCE, a low-dose triple combination oral drench with cobalt and selenium.